



AURANGABAD

QUEEN OF THE DECCAN



DIRECTORATE OF ARCHIVES
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
BOMBAY

AURANGABAD
QUEEN OF THE DECCAN

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PREFACE

I feel it to be my proud privilege to publish this Booklet wherein an attempt is made to give a bird's-eye view of the glorious past of the city and its environs which are embellished with world-famous caves of Ajanta and other monuments of consequence.

My thanks are due to Shri D. R. Amladi, Assistant Director, Bombay Archives and Shri P. N. Narkhede, Research Assistant, Maharashtra Gazetteers, for their valuable assistance in the compilation of this Brochure.

Shri S. A. Sapre, Director, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, Shri R. B. Alva, Manager, Government Central Press, Bombay and other technical and managerial staff deserve my thanks for the excellent printing and get-up of this Brochure.

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INTRODUCTION

Aurangabad (lat. $19^{\circ} 53' 59''$ north and long. $75^{\circ} 20'$ east) is the headquarters of the district and Division of the same name. Standing in the Dudhana valley, the city is flanked by the Lakenvara range on the north and the Sattara hills on the south. The valley has a general breadth of about 10 miles and is open towards the east; but on the west, the northern range deflects and curves in towards the city sending a spur close upon its suburbs. Along the base of either range the soil is shallow and rocky, while towards the centre it deepens and becomes rich and fertile. Thus, the city occupies very uneven ground.

Aurangabad is a municipal town and in 1971, its population was 1,50,483. It is linked with Bombay by air, rail, and road. A daily flight takes half an hour to reach Bombay. Manmad railway station is a junction for visitors to Aurangabad by train from Bombay or from Nagpur side. The State Transport services provide a link between Aurangabad and rest of the State of Maharashtra.

While, being a historic city, it has its own attractions and charms, the Ellora Caves are in its proximity, and visitors to the city could conveniently reach Ajanta Caves from here. Naturally, the city teems with tourists during the season.

In recent years—a decade or so—industrial units have started functioning and the suburbs and environs have given an industrial complex to the city.

Founded in 1610 A.D., by Malik Ambar, the Prime Minister of Murtaza Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar, the city of Aurangabad proper does not have a very long historical

past. He founded the city on the site of a village which was then known as Khirki. However, the region in which the district of Aurangabad is situated has a hoary, continuous past, which is confirmed by archaeological, literary and other sources.

The archaeological evidence indicates that the region has been under habitation by people of the Early Stone Age and Early Bronze Age (i.e., since *circa* 1500 B.C. downwards). The region on the north of the Godavari—now included in the Aurangabad district—was known as Mulaka with Pratishthana (present Paithan) as its capital. Along the southern bank of the Godavari extended the country of Ashmaka, comprising the present Ahmednagar and Bhir districts.

The caves at Pital Khora, Ajanta and Ellora indicate that the Aurangabad district was the centre of artistic and cultural activity from the 2nd century B.C. to the 10th century A.D. According to the *Udayasundarikatha* of Soddhala (11th century A.D.) Pratishthana on the Godavari—present Paithan, about 32 km. south of Aurangabad—was the capital of the Kuntala country.

The Aihole inscription (7th century A.D.) speaks of three Maharashtras which probably included Vidarbha, Western Maharashtra and Kuntala. The Early Chalukyas of Badami were known as Kuntaleshvaras.

The Early Rashtrakutas who succeeded them in the Deccan and the Later Chalukyas of Kalyani claimed themselves to be Kuntaleshvaras.

Krishna I, the Rashtrakuta King, caused the famous Kailas Cave temple to be carved out at Ellora.

The Chalukyas regained power under Tailapa II in 973 A.D. and continued their rule till they were finally over-thrown by Billam, the first Yadav ruler of Devagiri (the present Daulatabad).

The Yadav rule began to decline after Ala-ud-din Khilji attacked Devagiri in 1296 A.D. and it came to an end in 1318 A.D.

The readers of the medieval history of India are quite aware of the fiasco created by implementation of the sincere idea of transferring the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (Devagiri)—centrally situated place—by Muhammad Tughlak.

The Deccan was ruled by the Bahamani Kings from 1347 to 1482 A.D. when the inevitable split of the kingdom into five smaller kingdoms came about.

Daulatabad passed on to Nizamshahi, rulers of Ahmednagar, who flourished from 1490 to 1637 A.D. And it was in the time of Murtaza Nizam Shah that his Prime Minister, Malik Ambar established a new capital at the village Khirki (the present Aurangabad). Prince Khurram (Emperor Shah Jahan of the later years) ravaged the new city in 1621.

Malik Ambar's son, Fateh Khan, after his father's death in 1626 renamed the city as Fatehnagar. In 1633 Daulatabad was captured by the imperial (Mughal) troops after a siege of 58 days. Both Daulatabad and Fatehnagar passed on to the Mughals.

Aurangzeb, as a prince, was the viceroy of the Deccan for two spells—1636 to 1644 and 1652 to 1659. Fatehnagar was renamed as Aurangabad. The official records refer to this city as “ Khujista Buniyad ”.

During the viceroyalty of Shayasta Khan in the Deccan, Shivaji appeared in the vicinity of Aurangabad. Mirza Raja Jaisingh compelled Shivaji to come to terms at Purandar and visit Agra to pay homage to Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor, in 1665. The following year Shivaji arrived at Aurangabad *en route* to Delhi.

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, there was a tussle for power among the contenders. Farrukhsiyar ascended the throne as emperor in 1713. Mir Kamruddin Chin Kalich Khan Nizam-ul-Mulk was appointed the viceroy of the Deccan. He was the founder of the Nizam dynasty in the Deccan. Though he had been elevated as Prime Minister of the Mughal Empire and he took charge in 1722, he was tired of court intrigues. He therefore retired to the Deccan in 1724, crushed Mubariz Khan, the Governor of Hyderabad in the battle of Sakharkheda the same year. From this date the Nizam became virtually independent of the Mughal power and Hyderabad became his headquarter. As a result Aurangabad became only a headquarter of Aurangabad Subha.

The integration of Princely States with the Union of India followed in the wake of the Independence in 1947. The Hyderabad State became part and parcel of the Indian Union. The Reorganisation of States on November 1, 1956 separated Marathwada region from the Hyderabad State and it became a constituent of the Bilingual Bombay State. With the formation of Gujarat and Maharashtra States—as a result of bifurcation of Bombay State—with effect from May 1, 1960, the Marathwada formed part of Maharashtra.

As it is, after Reorganisation of States, Aurangabad became headquarter of the Marathwada. With the formation of Maharashtra it has been the divisional headquarter.

Aurangabad has been famous, not only for the monuments in and around it, but for its silk and cotton fabrics—*himru*, *mashru*—and kinkab and karchob work, i.e., gold and silver lace, brocade.

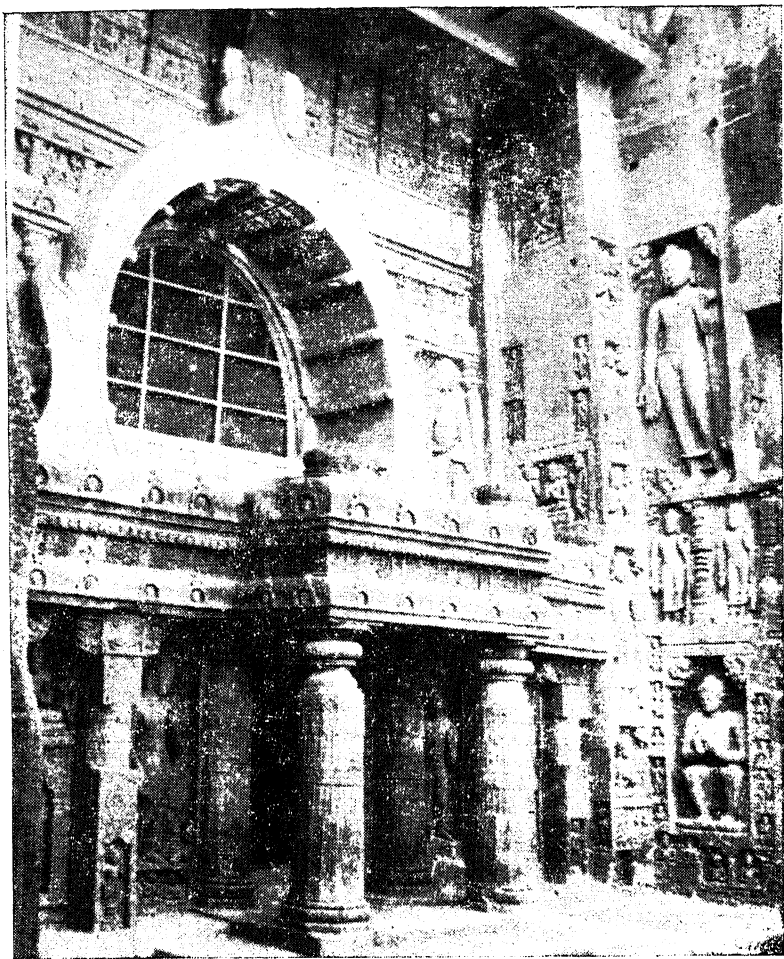
Besides the famous caves at Ellora and Ajanta and Daulatabad fort in its environs, Aurangabad city itself is proud of monuments—Aurangabad caves, Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Panchakki, etc.

This brochure attempts to present the glimpses of some of the more important monuments with the help of plates which follow this Introduction. Efforts are made to provide brief description of the monuments illustrated.

It is hoped that readers would like it.

D. R. AMLADI

P. N. NARKHEDE



Ajanta, Cave No. 19—facade

Magnificent in conception and workmanship, this exquisitely-decorated facade—with an elegant pillared portico and projected ornate cornice, and dominating *chaitya*-window flanked by the corpulent yaksha figures against a background of delicately-carved friezes—is a combination of richness of details and graceful proportions.



Ajanta, Cave No. 1—quadripartite deer

The pillars of the hall are exquisitely decorated. The central panels of the bracket-capitals contain various motifs—scenes from Buddha's life, worship of the *stupa*, Kubera and groups of figures including animals.

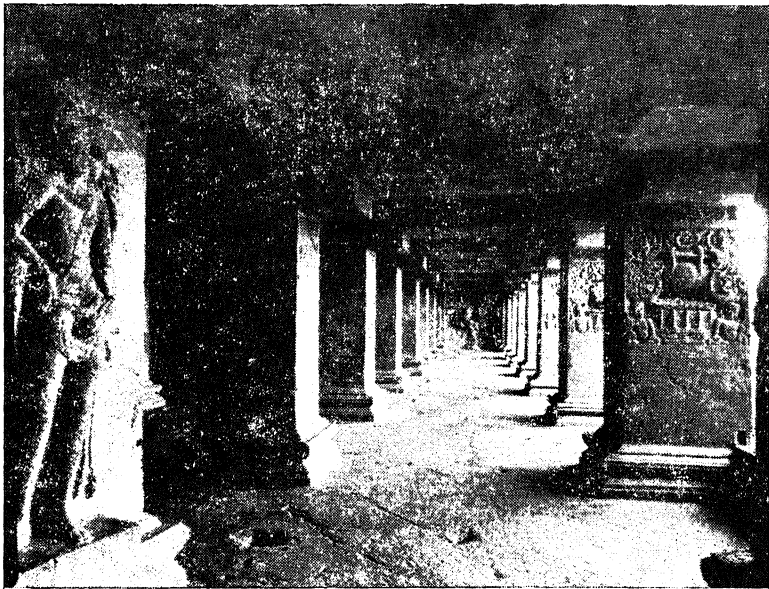
Very interesting among them is quadripartite deer—a frieze on the capital of one of the columns of the right-hand side. The head fits exactly all the four bodies, the poses of which are consistent and realistic—a close study and keen observation of the artists of Ajanta, indeed !



Aurangabad, Cave No. 7—Dancer

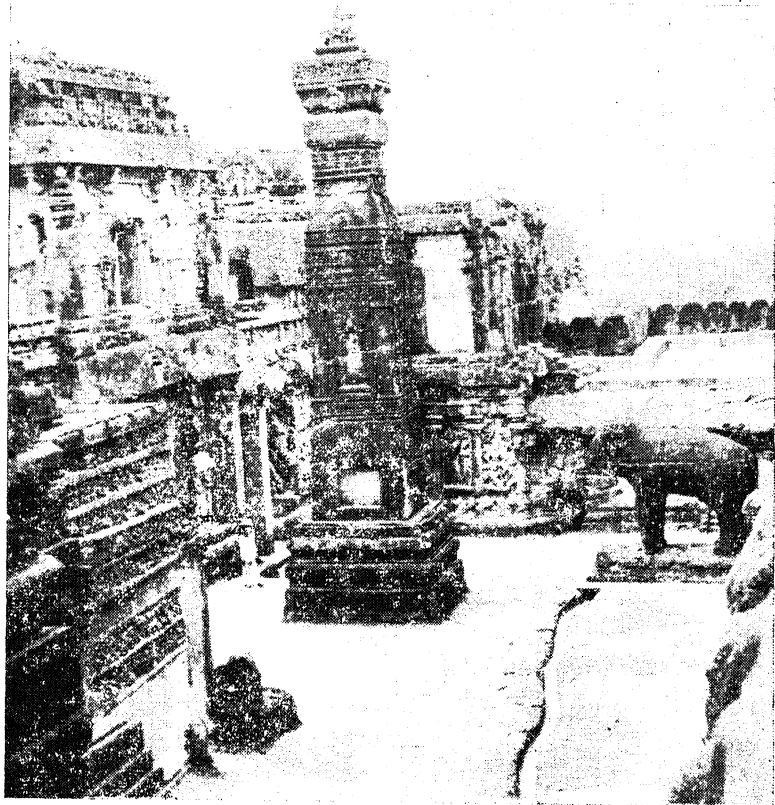
Of the twelve caves, excavated in the precipitous scarp of the hills to the north of Aurangabad and scattered over a distance of a mile and a half, No. 7 has excellent sculptures, which are characteristic of Mahayana mythology.

Inside the aisle, on the left wall, is a panel, which represents a dancer flanked by three females on either side—with musical instruments and other accompaniments.



Ellora, Cave No. 15—inner view

Hewn out of the solid rock, this—Dashavatara—cave is the most important of the Hindu caves. Reasons : (1) on the wall of the Nritya Mandir, an 8th Century A.D. inscription mentions Rashtrakuta king Dantidurga's visit on completion of the cave; (2) deftly executed vigorous sculptures—shaivite and vaishnavite panels portray different subjects vividly and graphically, with the master-artists' skill.



Ellora, Cave No. 16—Kailasa or Rangamahar

This is a side-view of Kailasa with Jayastambha in the foreground. The temple is a great monolith, isolated from the surrounding rock and carved both on the outside and inside. Dr. Yazdani says, "..... Their gigantic dimensions, rich decorative detail, and perfect finish, are absolutely amazing."

Though unique in temples carved out of solid rock, structurally, the Kailasa has predecessor in the Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal built by the queen of Chalukya King Vikramaditya II, which itself shows marked Pallava influence.

A combination of the southern and northern styles, it has a strong Dravidian complex.



Ellora, Cave No. 16—Shiva Tandava Nritya

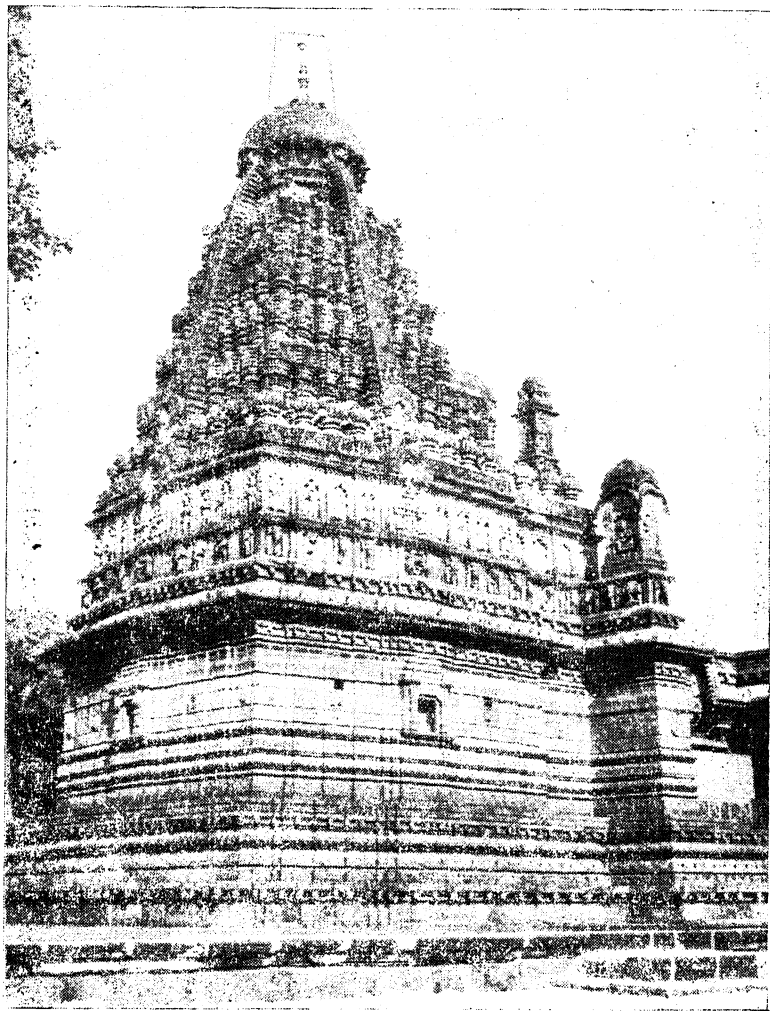
This is one of the panels on the screen wall on the right of the entrance to the *Kailas* temple.

Shiva is seen dancing gracefully the *Tandava*, a skull withering in his head-dress.



Ellora, Cave No. 16—Sita's abduction

On the left, outside on the wall of Rangamahar or the main temple is this famous Jatayu panel. The bird in its efforts to save Sita from Ravana's clutches is shown pecking at him on the left leg. Sita is seen seated in a chariot on Ravana's back.



Ghrishneshvar Temple, Ellora—side view

This elegant temple and the Shivatirtha, a little away to the west are ascribed to Ahilyabai Holkar, religious-minded and a great philanthropist, who ruled at Indore from 1765 to 1795.

A fine specimen of the modern style, it shows much less Muslim architectural influence than most of such buildings of the period.

It stands on a platform 84 ft. by 61 ft. with a sixteen-pillared *sabha-mandapa* $25\frac{1}{2}$ ft. square inside and three porches at different entrances.

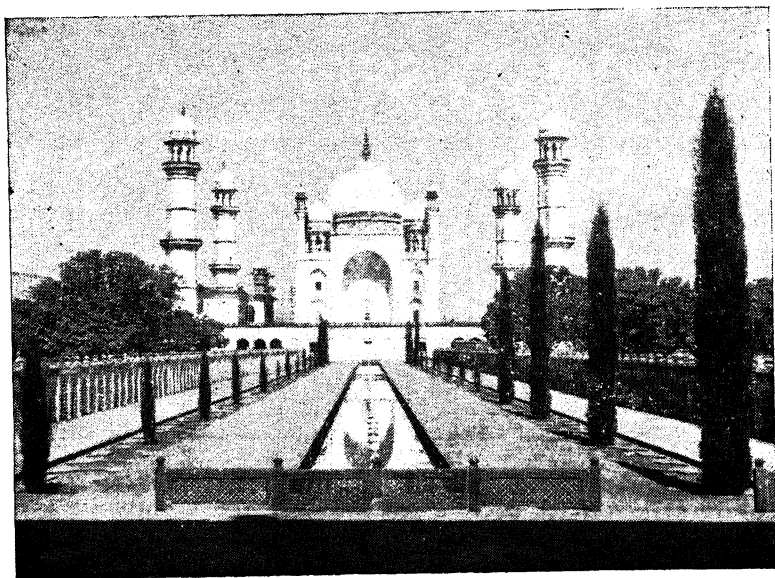
In the inner columns, the dwarfs over the faces of pillars serve as the usual form of brackets.

A highly polished *linga* of black stone is set in a carefully moulded altar, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. below the level of the *mandap*.

The outer portion of the basement with a stone slab railing is relieved by carvings on the exterior. Below the upper side of the cornice, the vertical walls of the shrine are ornamented by a series of projecting animal fronts, mostly elephants.

The *shikhar* rises in five tiers of diminishing height, the last surmounted by a couchant bull at each corner, with a body along each face, but with only one head and having a monkey behind it.

Due to marvellously beautiful looking *gopur* in exquisitely red colour, it is believed that this *gopur* of the temple is the only of its kind in India adorned with Shiva Parvati images.



Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad

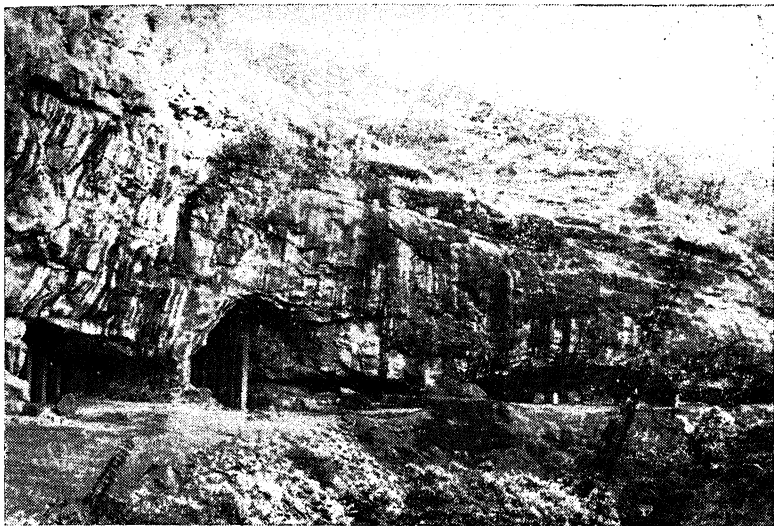
Though environs of Aurangabad have tombs and *rozas*, the one monument which stands out in the suburb of Begumpura is the beautiful mausoleum dedicated by Prince Azam Shah to the memory of Begum Rabia Durani, one of the four wives of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Bibi-ka-Maqbara, a conspicuous landmark, was erected between 1650 and 1657 at a cost over six lakh rupees. The architect was Ata Aula.

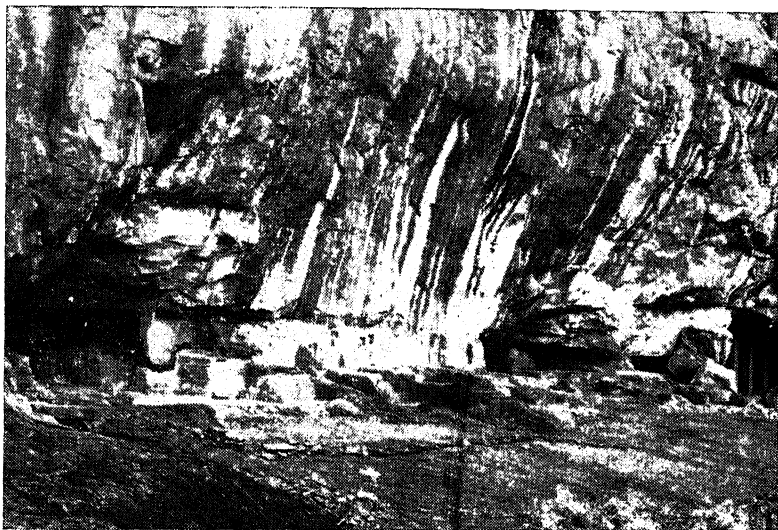
Though it was intended to rival the Taj Mahal at Agra which had just been completed then by Shah Jahan in cherished memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, the decline in architecture that had set in so rapidly, has made this beautiful Maqbara look inferior to the Taj in every respect.

The mausoleum stands within an enclosed area admeasuring 500 yds. by 300 yds. The surrounding high wall is crenallated with pointed arched recesses on the exterior.

A magnificent marble dome rises above, with four minarets at the corner angles.



Pital Khora, Cave Nos. 1-4—Panoramic View



Pital Khora, Cave Nos. 4-7—Panoramic View

Pital Khora Caves

Pital Khora or “Brazen glen”, 14 miles west of Kannad (Aurangabad district) and 12 miles south of Chalisgaon (Jalgaon district), contains several excavations, some of which seem to have had two storeys.

The principal cave is a *chaitya*, admeasuring 85 ft. by 35 ft. The front having gone, only 20 of the 35 pillars of the nave are visible.

Plain octagonal columns sloping slightly inwards, have full length paintings—Buddhist saints of different complexions wearing long tunics—which seem to be much later than the cave itself.

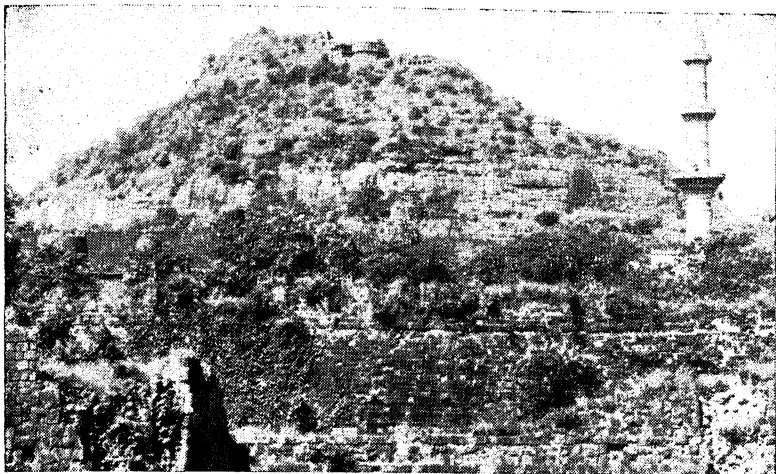
The two inscriptions are much abraded, but palaeographically they can be ascribed to the 2nd Century B.C.

The vaulted roof, $40\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, had wooden ribs, but now only the mortices remain.

The quadrantal stone ribs in the side aisles resemble those in cave X at Ajanta.

The *chaitya* has four *viharas* on western side and three on the eastern one. Though the front of the 1st *vihara* on the west is nearly destroyed, portions of sculptures—ornamental *chaitya* window arches—which are extant are as in cave XII at Ajanta.

The caves at Pital Khora are evidently very old; except for the *dagoba*, there are no other emblems of Buddhist faith.



Daulatabad Fort—General View

Daulatabad or Devagiri, nine miles to the north-west of Aurangabad, was a prosperous capital city in the 12th century—today it is a petty village, except for the famous fortress of that name.

In the words of Abdul Hamid Lahori, the official chronicler of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's reign : " This lofty fortress ... is a mass of rock which raises its head to heaven. The rock has been scraped throughout its circumference ... to a depth which ensures the retention of water in the ditch at the foot of the escarpment ... Through the centre of the hill a dark spiral passage like the ascent of a *minar* ... had been cut, and the steps in this passage are cut out of the rock. It is closed at the foot of the hill by an iron gate and after passing through this and ascending the passage one enters the citadel. At the head of the passage is a large grating of iron which is shut down in case of necessity and when a fire is lighted upon it the ascent of the spiral passage becomes impossible owing to the intense heat. The ordinary means of reducing fortress ... are useless against this fortress." This passage still exists. Ibn Batutah who visited the fort in 1342 or so records that access to the citadel was then gained by means of a leathern ladder.

The space between the outer and inner walls contains many ruined palaces, temples, *darghas* and mosques.

The *samadhi* dedicated to Janardan Swami (16th century) is at the base of the topmost bastion. On this bastion is placed a considerable piece of ordnance known as Durga.

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THE MAHARASHTRA ARCHIVES repositories at Bombay, Kolhapur and Poona are an important legacy of the past and a great national asset. Regional Offices at Aurangabad and Nagpur were opened in the recent years. They constitute the richest legacy left by the predecessor Government of the East India Company and of the Marathas from whom the British took over. No other State in India has such an old record of the early period of an All-India nature.

These Archives under the Director of Archives are the outcome of the retirement of non-current record of the Government since the past three centuries embodying experiences of the people who built up history.

They are preserved for posterity because of their continual utility for the necessary governmental processes, for protection of public and private rights and above all for research by scholars and students.

The Bombay Archives—There are about five lakh bound volumes and files dealing with political upheavals, military movements, education, judicial and ecclesiastical matters, rural economy, public health, development of ports, transport, trade and industry, water-supply, *etc.*, and covering the period from 1630 to 1955.

Pune Archives—Preserved in the Peshwa Daftar, now known as Pune Archives, Pune, the voluminous collection contains about 400 lakh State papers, documents, in modi script, pertaining to the Maratha period. It serves as a source material for the study of political, social and economic history of the time.

Kolhapur Archives—The contents comprise about 40 lakhs papers covering the period from 1700 to 1947 A.D. Written in modi script and in English they relate to the administration of the former Kolhapur State since its establishment in 1714.

FUNCTIONS—Besides entertaining requisitions for record from Government departments, supplying certified copies of extracts from the printed record to public, the most important function is to make available record for *bona fide* research. For facility of research students reference tools—hand-lists, catalogues, indexes, *etc.*, are being prepared. These save the time of researchers and help lengthen the life of old and precious records.

The public can consult printed record, *i.e.*, Gazettes and Government publications, in the office in Elphinstone College Building, Bombay 400 032.

PUBLICATIONS—Even in the days of the British administration, utility of these archives as source material for history had been fairly realised; so selections from them, numbering 589, were published covering wide-ranging subjects like alienation, archaeology, descriptive accounts of British districts, social reforms, Persian Gulf Affairs, *etc.* In 1888, the Bombay Government published Maratha and Home Series in four volumes. The publication programme, except for the World War II period, has continued unabated. The following selections and books were brought out till the creation of Maharashtra on 1st May 1960 :—

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In Collaboration with the late Dr. M. G. Dikshit.

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